

January 18, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft
US Department of Justice
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20530

Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am writing to let you know that I fully support the recent settlement between the U.S. Justice Department and the Microsoft Corporation. While I believe the government's case against Microsoft was not called for to begin with, I am very glad that both parties agreed to a settlement.

It is painfully obvious that the lawsuit against Microsoft was instigated by its' competitors who are unhappy because they are not as successful as Microsoft. This is not the fault of Microsoft nor has Microsoft done anything to warrant being accused of being a monopoly. Of course, politics being what it is, its' competitors lobbied certain "key" public officials in an effort to implement a full frontal attack against Microsoft through use of the courts. Everyone knows their only goal was and still is to harm Microsoft.

The U.S. economy is in a fullblown recession. Continuing these lawsuits will only further retard technological innovation and keep the economy from making a recovery. The Federal government should be bolstering the economy not harming it. All of this debate about an economic stimulus package is besides the point. Perhaps if the government backed off and stopped trying to harm hard working and successful American companies such as Microsoft, the economy would not be hurting today.

Sincerely,



David Sprouse
128 Reed Place
Anderson, SC 29621

cc: Senator Strom Thurmond
Representative Lindsey Graham